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making comparisons

Use comparative forms of adjectives

- to compare two things with *than*.
*People are **bigger than** snakes.*
- to compare two things without *than*.
*Which are **bigger**, people or snakes?* *People are **bigger**.*
- to compare two things with *than*, repeating *be*, or the auxiliary from the verb.
*I'm taller **than you are**. You look shorter **than I do**.*
- with a *than*-clause.
*This book is more interesting **than I expected**.*

spelling rules

- one-syllable words add **-er** *long – longer*
- one-syllable words ending vowel + consonant, double the consonant *hot – hotter*
- words ending in **-y** change **-y** to **-i** and add **-er**
- two-syllable words ending **-y** change **-y** to **-i** and add **-er**
angry – angrier happy – happier lucky – luckier
- some two-syllable adjectives use **-er** or **more**. Use **more** if you are in doubt.
more common / commoner more narrow / narrower
more pleasant / pleasanter more polite / politer more simple / simpler
- most two- and three-syllable words put **more** in front
more modern more expensive more comfortable
- irregular adjectives
good – better bad – worse far – farther or further

Make comparisons with

- a comparative form + *than*.
*The bite of an Egyptian Cobra is more poisonous **than** the bite of an Indian Cobra.*
- *less* + adjective + *than*, *not as* + adjective + *as*
*The bite of an Indian Cobra is **less** poisonous **than** the bite of an Egyptian Cobra.*
*The bite of an Indian Cobra is **not as** poisonous **as** the bite of an Egyptian Cobra.*
- *(just)* *as* + adjective + *as* when two things compare equally.
*I don't care which one is more poisonous. I'm **(just)** as scared of them both.*

comparative adjective + comparative adjective

Use two comparative adjectives joined by *and* for a changing situation.

*Learning gets **harder and harder** as people grow older.*

Use *the* + comparative, *the* + comparative for the same meaning.

*The **older** people get, **the harder** learning is.*

intensifiers

Use intensifiers *much*, *a lot* etc

- to say how great the comparison is.
*It's **a lot hotter** than yesterday. This chair is **much more** comfortable.*

- 1 Write a comparative sentence using the information and an adjective from the list. Make any necessary changes, leaving out any unnecessary detail.

deep dry high large long low old small

- a The River Mackenzie, Canada: 4,240 km
The River Niger, Africa: 4,170 km
The River Mackenzie is longer than the River Niger.
- b Lake Victoria, Africa: 69,484 km²
Lake Michigan, North America: 57,757 km²

- c The Marianas Trench, Pacific Ocean: 10,900 m
The Japan Trench, Northern Pacific: 9,000 m

- d Mont Blanc, France: 4,807 m
Mount Elbrus, Russia: 5,642 m

- e Arica, Chile: average rainfall 0.76 mm per year
The Libyan Sahara Desert: average rainfall, less than 15 mm per year

- f The oldest rocks in Scotland: 3 billion years old
The oldest rocks in Canada: 4 billion years old

- g The lowest recorded temperature in Finland: -57°C
The lowest recorded temperature in Sweden: -52°C

- h The island state of Nauru, South Pacific: 21 km²
Monaco: 1.6 km²

- 2 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first sentence, using the adjective in capitals.

- a The first question in the test was easier than the second one. DIFFICULT
The second question in the test was *more difficult than the first one.*
- b I think my sweets taste better than yours. TASTY
I think my sweets _____
- c Staying at home for a holiday is cheaper than travelling abroad. EXPENSIVE
Travelling abroad for a holiday _____
- d The Royal Hotel is more old-fashioned than the Holton Hotel. MODERN
The Holton Hotel _____
- e This chair isn't as comfortable as the sofa. COMFORTABLE
The sofa _____
- f I think water refreshes me more than milk does. REFRESHING
I think water is _____
- g Romantic films interest me more than war films. INTERESTING
I find _____
- h Jim's suitcase was lighter than Jack's suitcase. HEAVY
Jim's suitcase _____

3 Complete the sentence with one word.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>a I expected my exam results to be better.
My exam results were <u>worse</u> than I expected.</p> <p>b Harry doesn't look so clever.
Harry is _____ than he looks.</p> <p>c The black coat is smaller than the brown one.
The brown coat is _____ than the black one.</p> <p>d Helen's brother is older than her.
Helen is _____ than her brother.</p> <p>e Jim Carrey's previous film wasn't as funny as his latest one.
Jim Carrey's latest film is _____ than the previous one.</p> | <p>f I thought the station was nearer.
The station was _____ than I thought.</p> <p>g Maths lessons don't seem as short as English lessons.
Maths lessons seem _____ than English lessons.</p> <p>h I'm sure this year is colder than last year.
I'm sure last year was _____ than this year.</p> <p>i I'm not as happy as I used to be.
I used to be _____ than I am now.</p> <p>j The weather yesterday was worse.
The weather today is _____ than it was yesterday.</p> |
|---|--|

4 Rewrite the first sentence so that it contains the word or words in capitals.

- | | |
|--|------|
| a This book isn't as interesting as that one.
<u>This book is less interesting than that one.</u> | LESS |
| b A bike is less expensive than a scooter.
_____ | MORE |
| c You're taller than I am.
_____ | AS |
| d The first explanation is unlikely, and so is the second.
_____ | JUST |
| e Carol thought the accident was less serious than it was.
_____ | MORE |
| f My arm isn't as painful as it was.
_____ | THAN |

5 Complete the text with an adjective from the list, using a comparative form where necessary.

cheap	clever	difficult	easy
fast	important	up-to-date	essential

Nowadays using computers is more and more **a** essential. We can't do without them, and you don't have to be an expert to use one, as using a computer is **b** _____ and _____ all the time. You don't need to be rich either, as computers are also becoming **c** _____ and _____ as time goes on. Also, if you are studying, the Internet is becoming more and more **d** _____ as a place to find information. This used to take a long time, but the latest machines are a great improvement. The **e** _____ the computer, the _____ it works. However, protecting computers from viruses is becoming more and more **f** _____ as the people who invent viruses are becoming **g** _____ and _____. The Internet has become a dangerous place, so it is more and more **h** _____ to be very careful when we use computers.

6 Choose the correct form, A, B or C, to complete the text.

When you look into the night sky, you may not be able to tell the difference between **stars** and **planets**, but planets are **a** A to Earth. However, they are still very far away, and a journey to Mars would be about nine months, **b** _____ than a journey to the Moon (about three days). Even if your future space ship was **c** _____ the simple space probes we have now, it would still take you a couple of years to get to Jupiter, which is **d** _____ Earth – more than 1,300 times, in fact, and it's more than 300 times **e** _____. Jupiter is a giant ball of gas and the **atmospheric pressure** is **f** _____ it is on Earth. If you could land there, you would be **g** _____ – more than twice as much. The whole planet is **h** _____ Earth as well, and scientists think that the centre of the planet may be as hot as 10,000°C. Interestingly, the day on Jupiter is **i** _____, and only lasts about ten hours, but a year on Jupiter lasts for 11 Earth years. So when you came back, you would be **j** _____ when you set out!



- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| a A a lot nearer | B nearer than | C less near than |
| b A more longer | B as long as | C much longer |
| c A more fast | B a lot faster than | C not as fast as |
| d A very much bigger than | B as big as | C less big than |
| e A as dense as | B more dense | C less dense than |
| f A a lot greater than | B just as great | C less great |
| g A more than heavy | B less heavy | C much heavier |
| h A as hot as | B a lot hotter than | C hotter |
| i A a lot shorter | B shorter than | C less short |
| j A more old | B older | C much older than |



EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Write six sentences comparing yourself now with yourself aged eight.
- Write six sentences comparing cars and bikes.

superlatives and comparatives

forming superlatives

- the spelling rules are the same as for comparatives, but add **-est**
long – the longest hot – the hottest happy – the happiest
- form the superlative of longer adjectives by putting *most* or *least* in front
the most modern the least expensive the most comfortable
- irregular forms
good – the best bad – the worst

Use the superlative forms of adjectives

- to compare one thing with a lot of other things of the same kind. Put the superlative adjective between **the** and (noun).

*Most experts say that the Anaconda is **the biggest snake** in the world.*

***The largest one** ever captured was about 9 metres in length.*

- with **ever** and present perfect to talk about experiences.

*This is **the easiest language I've ever learned**.*

We use present perfect because we are talking about the speaker's lifetime experience, which is unfinished.

We can also use comparative adjectives when we talk about experiences.

***Have you ever seen a bigger snake** (than this one)?*

forming comparative adverbs

- adverbs ending **-ly** use **more** *slowly – more slowly*
*Jim runs **more slowly than** anyone I know!*
- adverbs with the same forms as adjectives without **-ly** add **-er**
fast – faster hard – harder
- irregular forms *well – better*

Use comparative adverbs

- to compare two actions.
*Anna runs **faster than** the rest of the team.*
- without **than**.
*Who **runs faster**. Anna or Helen? Anna **runs faster**.*
- with **than**, repeating the auxiliary from the verb.
*I run faster **than you do**.*

forming superlative adverbs

- adverbs ending **-ly** use **the most / least** *slowly – the most slowly*
*Jim runs **the most slowly of** anyone I know!*
- adverbs without **-ly** add **-est** *fast – the fastest*
- irregular forms *well – the best*

Use superlative adverbs

- to compare one action with a lot of other actions of the same kind, using **of**.
*Everyone worked hard, but Kate worked (the) **hardest**.*
*Kate worked **the hardest of** all the girls in her class.*

1 Complete the sentence with the superlative form of the adjective in capitals.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| a The <u>heaviest</u> whale ever caught weighed more than 171,000 kg. | HEAVY |
| b The _____ whale recorded was over 33 m in length. | LONG |
| c A specimen of king's holly, a plant found in the rainforest of Tasmania, is one of the _____ plants on Earth - over 43,000 years old. | OLD |
| d The cheetah is the _____ creature on Earth, and is capable of running at over 110 kph. | FAST |
| e The _____ part of the ocean where a fish has been found was 8,372 m down in the Puerto Rican Trench. | DEEP |
| f The _____ fish in the sea is the sailfish, which can travel 100 kph. | SPEEDY |
| g No prizes for guessing the world's _____ fish. It is the deadly piranha fish. | FEROCIOUS |
| h The sea wasp, which lives off the north coast of Australia, is the _____ creature in the sea. If it stings you, you have between 30 seconds and four minutes to live. | POISONOUS |
| i The _____ spider in the world is the goliath spider from South America, which can be 28 cm across. | LARGE |
| j And the _____ mammal is probably Savi's pygmy shrew, a mouse-like creature, which weighs between 1 and 3 grams. | SMALL |

2 Complete the sentence so that it means the same as the first sentence, and includes a superlative adjective.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a I've never sat in a more comfortable classroom than this.
This is the <u>most comfortable classroom I've ever</u> sat in. | |
| b I've never eaten a tastier school lunch than this.
This is the _____ eaten. | |
| c I've never read a worse book than this.
This is the _____ read. | |
| d We've never had a more useful English lesson than this.
This is the _____ had. | |
| e I've never solved an easier problem than this.
This is the _____ solved. | |
| f I've never taken a longer test than this.
This is the _____ taken. | |
| g I've never written a more difficult test than this.
This is the _____ written. | |
| h I've never seen a more entertaining school play than this.
This is the _____ seen. | |
| i We've never used a more interesting textbook than this.
This is the _____ used. | |
| j I've never had a better friend than you.
You are the _____ had. | |

- 3 Rewrite the underlined part of the sentence, using a comparative form of an adverb in the list

easy fast hard heavy long often slow well

- a When you tell a lie, your brain has to work more.
 b If you cut your hair a lot it won't grow at an increased speed.
 c Acts of forgetting occur with increased frequency as people get older.
 d Some crystals grow at a lower speed in space.
 e Goats' milk is digested with less difficulty than cows' milk.
 f People may live for a greater number of years by eating less.
 g People drive with more skill along tree-lined streets.
 h As a low weather front approaches, it starts to drizzle and then rains a lot as a warm front approaches.

harder

- 4 Complete each sentence with a suitable form of an adverb from the list. Then decide if each fact is true or false. Check the factual answers on page 208.

carefully clearly early easily fast
heavily loudly quickly quietly slowly

- a Hot water can in fact freeze more easily than cold water.
 b Bird flu spreads to humans more easily than thought.
 c Scientists believe that human beings speak more easily now than 250 years ago.
 d Brazil's Amazon rainforest is disappearing more easily than scientists previously estimated.
 e Students who use green pens write more easily.
 f The Earth vibrates and makes a humming noise, and does this more easily in the afternoon.
 g Teenagers are drinking alcohol earlier and more easily than ever before.
 h Most younger people think more easily in the afternoon.
 i Eagles wake up more easily than any other birds.
 j Eating more easily does not reduce your appetite.



A bald headed eagle

GLOSSARY



5 Choose the correct form, A, B, C or D, to complete the sentence.

- a You left school A than I did.
- b Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is _____ of them all?
- c What's _____ book you've ever read?
- d Helen's teacher congratulated her for working so _____ before the exams.
- e Our company can help you to manage your money _____
- f You can type _____ I can.
- g I find French _____ to speak than Italian.
- h Which moves _____, a snail or a worm?
- i Have you ever eaten _____ meal than this?
- j Picasso's paintings are among _____

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| a A later | B more lately | C most lately | D more late |
| b A the more beautiful | B as beautiful | C the most beautiful | D more beautiful |
| c A more interesting | B the most interesting | C the more interesting | D more interesting than |
| d A hardly | B hardest | C hard | D harder |
| e A successful | B just as successful | C more successful than | D more successfully |
| f A much faster than | B more fast as | C just as fast than | D fastest than |
| g A difficult | B more difficult | C as difficult | D most difficult |
| h A quicker than | B as quick as | C more quickly | D as quickest |
| i A as good | B the best | C the good | D a better |
| j A the most expensive | B more expensive | C as expensive | D not as expensive |

6 Complete the text with the most suitable form of the adjective in brackets.

London is one of a (large) the largest cities in the world.
 Its population is b (low) _____ than Tokyo or Shanghai.
 but it is one of c (popular) _____ tourist destinations of
 all. London is probably d (famous) _____ for its museums,
galleries, palaces and other sights, but it also includes a e (wide)

_____ range of peoples, cultures and religions than many other places. People used to say
 that it was f (dirty) _____ city too, but it is now much g (clean) _____
 than it was. To the surprise of many people, it now has some of h (good) _____ restaurants
 in Europe too. For some people, this makes London i (exciting) _____ city in Europe.
 Unfortunately, London is definitely not j (expensive) _____ city in Europe, though a holiday
 in London is good value for money, considering what there is to see and do there.



EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- 1 Make a list of facts about your country, using superlative adjectives.
- 2 Write a sentence for each adjective or adverb.

the most uncomfortable	the hardest
the least expensive	more quickly
more carefully	more quietly